

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 3, with the following amended paragraph:

As used herein, "the near-zero gravity state" does not mean a real zero gravity state in that the weight of a laundry becomes zero but means such a state in which the laundry article floats while being ~~kept expanded~~ spread out in the cleaning liquid. Therefore, certain gravity is exerted on the laundry article disposed in the cylindrical basket-like washing tub. At the same time, since the cylindrical basket-like washing tub is filled with the cleaning liquid, buoyancy corresponding to a volume of the laundry article and a density of the cleaning liquid is exerted on the laundry article. Accordingly, the laundry article floats inside the cylindrical basket-like washing tub. The cleaning liquid is fed into the outer casing surrounding the cylindrical basket-like washing tub so as to fill the cylindrical basket-like washing tub with the cleaning liquid. Therefore, the laundry article maintains a floating state in the cylindrical basket-like washing tub when the cylindrical basket-like washing tub is rotated.

Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 7-8 with the following amended paragraph:

Due to the wavy patterned surface of the inner periphery of the cylindrical basket-like washing tub, the cleaning liquid moves mildly to the center of the cylindrical basket-like washing tub and then moves in the axial direction when the cylindrical basket-like washing tub is set to the above size and rotated at the above speed. The cleaning liquid moving to the center of the cylindrical basket-like washing tub maintains the laundry article at a floating state and causes the laundry article to move away from the inner periphery of the cylindrical basket-like washing tub. Particularly, since the wavy patterned surface is formed on the inner wall surface of the cylindrical basket-like washing tub, a mild current in the form of a swirl generates near an inner wall surface of the cylindrical basket-like washing tub. Due to the swirl, the laundry article is prevented from contacting the inner periphery of the cylindrical basket-like washing tub, and damages on the laundry article are reliably prevented. Further, the cleaning liquid moving in the axial direction from the center of the cylindrical basket-like washing tub spreads out the laundry article in the cylindrical basket-like washing tub. Thus, the cleaning liquid mildly and reliably

flows between fibers of the laundry article, and the surfactant contained in the cleaning liquid reliably separates the contaminations adhered to the laundry article from the laundry article.

Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 33-34 with the following amended paragraph:

Though the inner diameter D of the frame body 18 of the foregoing embodiment is set to from 300 mm to less than 500 mm, the inner diameter D of this modification example for large size clothes 35 is preferably set to 650 mm ~~more than 500 mm to less than 1000 mm~~. Due to the inner diameter D of 650 mm ~~between 500 mm and 1000 mm~~ of this modification example, it is possible to sufficiently clean a lounge suit, for example. By the larger inner diameter D of the frame body 18, it is possible to sufficiently clean clothes 35 having large size. Therefore, by setting the inner diameter to from 500 mm to 1,000 mm, the washing method is applicable to commercial laundry. However, with the increase in the inner diameter D, an amount of the cleaning liquid to be supplied to the frame body 18 is increased. Accordingly, the optimum inner diameter for the commercial laundry is preferably from 600 mm to 850 mm. Also, And the rotation speed of the frame body 18 is preferably set to 5 to 60 rotations per minute.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page on page 34, line 9, with the following amended paragraph:

In this embodiment, too, the cleaning liquid moves mildly to the center of the frame body 18 and moves in the axial direction from the center of the frame body 18 when the frame body 18 is rotated because the inner periphery 39 of the frame body 18 is ~~formed with the wavy patterned surface~~ in the form of a sine curve and by setting the size and the rotation speed of the frame body 18 within the above ranges. The cleaning liquid moving to the center of the frame body 18 maintains the clothes 35 in a floating state and keeps the clothes away from the inner periphery 39 of the frame body 18. Therefore, as is the case with the foregoing embodiment, contact of the clothes 35 with the inner periphery 39 of the frame body 18 is prevented, so that the clothes 35 are reliably prevented from being damaged. Further, the cleaning liquid moving in the axial direction from the center of the frame body 18 spreads each of the clothes 35 inside the frame body 18. Thus, the surfactant contained in the cleaning liquid reliably flows between fibers

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of the clothes 35 to separate the contaminations adhered to the clothes 35 though the flow is mild.